

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 MMS-04 PM-07 L-03 EB-11

CU-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 ACDA-19

AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 OPIC-12 PC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6611

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1594

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECRP, TD

SUBJECT: PRE-IG REVIEW OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CASP

REF: A. STATE 141436; B. POS A-27 OF APRIL 1974

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF REF A,
WITH PAGE REFERENCES TO REF B.

2. PAGE 11. CONTROL OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE. CONCUR IN LOWERING
LEVEL OF CONCERN FROM MEDIUM TO LOW. EARLIER COUNTRY TEAM DECISION
TO ASSIGN MEDIUM LEVEL OF CONCERN INFLUENCED BY CASP PROCEDURAL
GUIDANCE WHICH INDICATED THAT WHEN THERE EXIST CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES, OR SITUATIONS WHICH REQUIRED WASHINGTON INTER-
AGENCY COORDINATION TO RESOLVE, FULLER ANALYSIS REQUIRED SHOULD BE
KEYED TO HIGH OR MEDIUM LEVEL OF CONCERN. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER,
STATE 116753 OF JUNE 4 REPORTS INS PROPOSAL TO AMEND REGULATIONS
REGARDING VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CARIBBEAN NATIONALS TRAVELING TO
PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. THEREFORE, WASHINGTON AGENCY
DELIBERATIONS AIMED AT CLOSING "BACK DOOR" TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
FROM THE CARIBBEAN ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY AND THIS PROBLEM PERHAPS NO
LONG REQUIRES DEGREE OF HIGH-LIGHTING IN CASP WHICH WOULD BE
IMPLIED BY "MEDIUM" LEVEL OF CONCERN.

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3. PAGE 19. LAW OF THE SEA POSITION. DEFER TO IG IF IT CONSIDERS

LEVEL OF CONCERN MORE APPROPRIATELY TO BE TERMED "LOW." IN VIEW OF THE INFLUENTIAL ROLE GOTT HAS PLAYED IN PRELIMINARY LOS CONFERENCES AND COMPETENCE AND SOPHISTICATION OF ITS LOS TEAM, HOWEVER, WE QUESTION WHETHER IT WILL REALLY FUNCTION AS SUCH A SMALL COG IN CURRENT CARACAS SETTING. WHILE TYPICALLY GOTT DOES TAKE VERY LOW POSTURE IN MULTI-LATERAL MEETINGS, LOS HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUS EXCEPTION IN THE PAST. SHORTLY AFTER CASP SUBMISSION, US LOS TEAM HEADED BY BERNARD OXMAN VISITED PORT OF SPAIN AND IMPRESSED UPON US SIGNIFICANT ROLE BEING PLAYED BY GOTT IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. SINCE LOS NEGOTIATIONS WILL PRESUMABLY NOT BE ENTIRELY COMPLETED IN CARACAS, SUGGEST THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER THIS A CONTINUING CONCERN FOR FY-1975. AT LEAST. AS TO CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE CURRENT GOTT NEGOTIATING STANCE, THESE ARE WELL DEFINED IN PARAGRPH 4 (RECOMMENDATIONS) OF SANTO DOMINGO 1616 OF APRIL 20 (REPORT OF US LOS TEAM'S DISCUSSIONS IN TRINIDAD). THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WIDER IMPACT ON LOS NEGOTIATIONS IS AFFORDED BY THE INFLUENCE AND ACTIVISM OF THE GOTT CHIEF LOS NEGOTIATOR (LENNOX BALLAH) WITHIN INTERNATIONAL LOS DISCUSSIONS. PARTICULARLY WITHIN NON-ALIGNED GROUP WHERE HIS SOPHISTICATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF USG THEMES CAN SERVE AS A BRIDGE TO LESS WELL-PREPARED BY IDEOLOGICALLY MILITANT DELEGATIONS.

4. PAGE 27. CAPACITY OF OPPOSITON TO DISPLACE GOVERNMENT. THE ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTIONS ON PAGE 27 APPEAR AS ACCURATE TODAY AS WHEN THEY WERE DRAFTEDTHREE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS AGO. FOR REPORTING ON SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS, SEE ESPECIALY POS AIRGRAMS A-31 OF APRIL 25, A-45 OF JUNE 7, AND A-48 OF JUNE 13. THE FACTIONAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE RULING PARTY CONTINUE, AND POTENTIAL NEW POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS AMONG OPPOSITION ELEMENTS CONTINUE TO BE EXPLORED AND TESTED. WE BELIEVE THAT ALMOST ANY COALITION LIKELY TO GAIN POWER IN THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE ONE THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN A REASONABLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH, ALTHOUGH IT MAY CONTAIN A FAIR AMOUNT OF NEW AND INEXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL HAVE TO TEST THE PRAGMATIC LIMITS OF ITS CAMPAIGN PROMISES. SUCH PROMISES WOULD INEVITABLY FOCUS HEAVILY ON GREATER TRINIDADIAN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OVER NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRIES, AND WE CAN EXPECT THAT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD IMOSE NEW DEMANDS ON THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE PETROLEUM SECTOR.

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AS THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF POLITICAL FRAGMENTS COALESCES OR SHIFTS IN THE COMING MINTHS, A PRIMARY FOCUS OF EMBASSY REPORTING WILL BE TO CONTINUE TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY REF A. MEANWHILE, THE AIRGRAMS NOTED ABOVE GIVE THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AND WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED DESCRIPTION ON PAGE 27 OF THE CASP DRAFT (TAKEN IN ITS ENTIRETY) REMAINS A VALID SUMMARY.

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